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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUSINESS PLAN IN AFRICA

Addendum

Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa

Report by the Director-General

1. Chapter II of the report on implementation of the Business Plan in Africa (GC.8/6-IDB.21/18) referred to a number of funds mobilization measures, including the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa. This addendum provides further information on preparations for that event.

2. The Government of Senegal has indicated its readiness to host the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment. It is therefore anticipated that the Conference will take place in Dakar, Senegal, from 20 to 21 October 1999, in conjunction with the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI XIV), to be held from 22 to 23 October 1999.

3. The Conference is being organized by UNIDO, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in pursuance of the Declaration of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted in Harare, Zimbabwe in June 1997, which was subsequently reiterated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1997, through its resolution 52/208. That resolution, *inter alia*, "Invites donor countries, United Nations funds and programmes, all relevant United Nations organizations and the private sector to participate in a meeting of donors to be organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development

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Programme and the Organization of African Unity, under the leadership of the African Development Bank and in cooperation with the World Bank".

4. The Steering Committee of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization at its first meeting held in Abidjan in September 1998 decided that the donors' meeting should be organized as a conference on industrial partnerships and investment in Africa, in the period between June and October 1999, to address industrial development concerns broader than the mobilization of funds alone. The executive heads of the African Development Bank, ECA and OAU decided in February 1999 to establish a task force with UNIDO to prepare and organize the Conference.

5. The Conference will consist of two interrelated forums:

- A forum to discuss issues related to industrial development, partnerships and investment in Africa, including the financing of small and medium industries;
- A forum to identify and mobilize resources and to decide on the measures to be taken for financing the technical cooperation programmes recently formulated in cooperation with African countries, and in the context of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, for the development of the industrial sector in those countries. This forum will also offer an opportunity to confirm commitments already made towards the financing of these programmes.

6. In line with the new emphasis of the Conference on the promotion of industrial partnerships, it is also anticipated that the first bi-regional (Africa-Latin America and Caribbean) business seminar of the Latin American Economic System will be held in Dakar from 18 to 19 October 1999, in the margin of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa. The objective is to encourage the exchange of experience on strategies and business partnerships between selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and African countries, in the context of economic and technical cooperation in developing countries.